

SoCal, Colorado, Utah getaway ideas

By Alison Stanton

Special for The Republic

The temperatures are above 100 degrees, and all over Arizona, people are hitting the road for summer fun. If you're looking for new and interesting things to do and places to stay, consider these options in Southern California, Colorado and southern Utah.

Southern California

Things to do

U.S. Open Sandcastle Competition: July 22-24. Festivities include sand-castle competitions on Imperial Beach for adults and kids, a parade and fireworks. www.usopensandcastle.com.

Summerfest 2011: Aug. 3-26. The La Jolla Music Society will present concerts at various locations in La Jolla and San Diego. The chamber-music festival features new and classical music performed by more than 70 musicians and ensembles from all over the world. www.ljms.org.

Art in the Park: Through Nov. 6. This free event the first Sunday of each month is at Dinosaur Caves Park on Shell Beach north of Pismo Beach. More than 100 artists and vendors will be on hand. Dogs are welcome, and many families come with picnic baskets. 2701 Price Road. www.artintheparkshellbeach.com.

See GETAWAYS, Page T3

Where to stay

Park Hyatt Aviara Resort: Fans of horse racing will appreciate the Del Mar Races Turf Club package. Available Tuesday through Sept. 7, it includes accommodations and admission for two to the private Turf Club at Del Mar Thoroughbred Club. A two-night stay is required. Rack rate is \$395 a night. 7100 Aviara Resort Drive, Carlsbad. www.parkhyattaviara.com; use code DMRACE.

Omni San Diego Hotel: The All-American Baseball package starts at \$269 a night and includes accommodations for two, breakfast for two at the hotel's restaurant or through room service, and two tickets to a San Diego Padres game. It's available through Sept. 28. Catch the Diamondbacks July 26-28. 675 L St. www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/SanDiego.aspx.

Jamaica Bay Inn: This beachfront hotel overlooks the harbor of Marina del Rey. Specials include the Family Getaway package, with milk and cookies upon arrival, breakfast for four and four bike rentals, from \$279 per night. 4175 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey. www.jamaicabayinn.com/specials.php.

Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa: This is a fun destination for couples and families. Featuring a 2-acre water park called Splashtopia, it's also a great place to stay cool. The Your Choice package starts at \$299 and includes one night's accommodations and a \$100 resort credit. 41-000 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage. www.rancholaspalmas.com; click on "Specials & Packages."

Colorado

Things to do

Durango Discovery Museum: This hands-on museum is filled with exhibits and activities about all kinds of energy. The museum celebrated the grand opening last month of a new wing that includes thousands of square feet dedicated to interactive exhibits. 1333 Camino del Rio. www.durangodiscovery.org.

Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum: This 52,000-square-foot museum, which opened in May, celebrates the history of Colorado's longest continuous residents. It has interactive exhibits, artifact collections, photos and oral histories. 77 County Road 517, Ignacio (about 25 miles southeast of Durango). www.southernutemuseum.org.

Soaring Tree Top Adventures:



This zip-line canopy tour has 24 segments, letting riders soar through trees and above the Animas River. Participants ride the Durango & Silverton Railroad to the zip-line site. The outing includes four-course gourmet picnic lunch. Open through Oct. 16. Price is \$439 per person. www.soaringcolorado.com.

Where to stay

The Curtis: The Yo Ho Ho & a Bottle of Rum package starts at \$175 a night and includes accommodations, breakfast for two adults at the Corner Office, two tickets to "Real Pirates" at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science and a treasure chest filled with snacks and a small bottle of rum. Available until Aug. 7. 1405 Curtis St., Denver. www.the-curtis.com; use code PK9.

Southern Utah



This is a good month to learn about the wonders of southern Utah's Bryce Canyon. The national park's Geology Festival is July 28-30. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Things to do

Bryce Canyon Geology Festival: July 28-30. This second annual event will offer programs for all ages. Last year's festival included hoodoo hikes, geology talks and bus tours, and activities for kids. Check the website for more information. www.nps.gov/brca.

Where to stay

Zion Ponderosa Ranch Resort: This 4,000-acre ranch is just outside the east entrance of the national park. Amenities include miniature golf, zip lines, swimming pools and horseback riding. Camp in your tent or RV, or find rentals ranging from a rustic cabin to a fully equipped vacation home with up to eight bedrooms. Cabins start at \$64 per night; vacation homes at \$253. Meal packages are available. www.zionponderosa.com.